



Department of State

TELEGRAM

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA 10 ADS-00 10-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
NSCF-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 SMS-01 RP-10 AID-07 TRSE-00
ACDA-12 HA-05 SY-05 SYE-00 ANAE-00 /125 W
-----033492 180815Z /16-12

O R 171200Z JUL 80

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1866

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BEIJING

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USICA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

CINCEUR

CINCPAC

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY *John Kelley*

DATE 8/14/89

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() SECRET

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() DISSEMINATE in PART

() Non-responsive info.

FOR USE OF PA STENOGRAPHER

TS authority to:

() CLASSIFY as

() OADR

() DOWNGRADE TS to () S or () C, OADR

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 2148

KARACHI ALSO FOR RSS, CINCEUR AND CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLADS

E.O. 11652: GDS 7/17/86 (GRIFFIN, GEORGE G. B.) OR-M

TAGS: ASEC PEPR PINS PINT SHUM AF PDIP

SUBJECT: UPDATE ON SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN

REF: KABUL 2116

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1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT)

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2. SUMMARY: TENSIONS ARE ONCE AGAIN ON THE RISE IN KABUL AS RUMORS SPREAD THAT VIOLENCE MAY ERUPT AS THE MOSCOW OLYMPICS OPEN ON JULY 19. SMALL ARMS GUNFIRE, A NIGHTLY FEATURE IN RECENT WEEKS, SEEMED TO INTENSIFY THE EVENING OF JULY 16 AND 17, AND ARMOR, HELICOPTER AND JET FIGHTER ACTIVITY IN AND OVER THE CITY INCREASED ON JULY 17. SEVERAL WESTERN JOURNALISTS PLANNING TO ARRIVE JULY 17 WILL PROBABLY BE INCARCERATED IN A HOTEL. PERHAPS THEY WILL WRITE STORIES BASED ON LOCAL TELEVISION FOOTAGE, SOMETHING MUCH IMPROVED SINCE THE INAUGURATION OF A RELAY FACILITY CARRYING SOVIET BROADCASTS. DRA HARASSMENT OF THE EMBASSY CONTINUED. END SUMMARY.

3. SEVERAL SOURCES HAVE WARNED THE EMBASSY TO EXPECT RESISTANCE-SPONSORED DISTURBANCE IN KABUL DURING THE MOSCOW OLYMPICS. SOME HAVE PINPOINTED JULY 19 AS THE KICKOFF DATE. ONE CONTACT CLAIMED TO QUOTE AN INSURGENT LEADER WHO ASSERTED THAT RESISTANCE GROUPS HAVE BEEN POSITIONED IN AND AROUND THE CITY FOR THIS PURPOSE. WHILE AN AIR OF EXPECTANCY HAS BEEN NOTICED BY EMBASSY PERSONNEL, EXPERIENCE HAS TAUGHT US THAT SUCH PREDICTIONS MORE OFTEN THAN NOT FAIL TO MATERIALIZE. APPARENTLY NOT WORRIED, THE DRA HAS REDUCED THE NIGHTLY CURFEW TO THREE HOURS (MIDNIGHT TO 0300) FOR THE DURATION OF RAMAZAN.

4. NONETHELESS, SEVERAL BURSTS OF SMALL ARMS FIRE WERE HEARD DURING THE LAST TWO NIGHTS NEAR THE HOMES OF EMBASSY PERSONNEL AND EARLY THIS MORNING SOVIET BMD'S, HELICOPTERS AND JET FIGHTERS WERE OUT IN MORE THAN THEIR USUAL NUMBER. GUNFIRE WAS ALSO HEARD BY EMBASSY PERSONNEL IN THE NORTHWESTERN KHAIR KHANA SECTION (WHICH IS RINGED BY SOVIET BASES). A LARGE EXPLOSION WAS HEARD AT NOON TODAY, BUT WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO DETERMINE ITS SOURCE AND DRA MEDIA LAST NIGHT ANNOUNCED THAT THERE WOULD

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BE BLASTING IN NEARBY QUARRIES TODAY (IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION FROM THE EXPLOSION).

5. ACCORDING TO A BRITISH JOURNALIST IN KABUL FOR THE PAST FEW DAYS, SEVERAL WESTERN CORRESPONDENTS BASED AT NEW DELHI, HAVING HEARD RUMORS OF IMPENDING DISTURBANCES AND WANTING KABUL DATES FOR THEIR STORIES, PLAN TO FLY TO KABUL-THIS AFTERNOON. SINCE THERE IS NO DEPARTING FLIGHT AFTER THEIR PLANNED ARRIVAL, DRA AUTHORITIES WILL PROBABLY TAKE THE WESTERNERS IN

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A GROUP TO A HOTEL, WHERE THEY WILL BE INCARCERATED UNTIL THEY CAN BE PUT ON AN OUTGOING FLIGHT TOMORROW. AN EMBASSY OFFICER WILL TRY TO MONITOR THE ARRIVAL TO SEE IF THERE ARE ANY AMERICANS AMONG THE GROUP.

6. IF THEY ARE TAKEN TO A HOTEL THE JOURNALISTS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO LEAVE, ALTHOUGH WESTERN DIPLOMATS MAY BE ABLE TO GET INTO THE HOTEL TO TALK WITH THEM. THUS THEIR VIEW OF KABUL WILL BE RESTRICTED LARGELY TO WHAT THEY SEE ON KABUL TV, NORMALLY A TOP CANDIDATE FOR THE WORLD'S Dullest FARE. HOWEVER, WITH THE INAUGURATION OF JULY 10 OF A SOVIET MOBILE SATELLITE GROUND STATION THEY CAN PASS THE TIME WATCHING FAR BETTER SOVIET OLYMPICS AND WORLD NEWS COVERAGE.

7. THE DRA CONTINUED TO HARASS THE EMBASSY THIS WEEK, PLACING HEAVY TAILS ON MOST AMERICAN PERSONNEL AND PRESSURING AFGHAN PSN'S TO REPORT TO THE SECRET POLICE (KAD). CUSTOMS CLEARANCES WERE FINALLY EFFECTED FOR SOME INCOMING SUPPLIES AFTER A TWO-WEEK HASSLE OVER THE WORDING OF DIPLOMATIC NOTES. HOWEVER, THE PROTOCOL OFFICE AT MFA HELD UP SEVERAL REQUESTS FOR VISAS FOR NEW USG PERSONNEL AND BEGAN TO QUESTION THE SIZE OF THE EMBASSY AND THE ASSIGNMENTS OF THE INCOMING STAFFERS. AT THE SAME TIME, PROTOCOL DEMANDED A VISA IMMEDIATELY FOR AN OFFICER ACCOMPANYING FOREIGN MINISTER DOST

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PROCESSED ON 01/15/20
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